



What is Roundtable?

Each District holds a monthly meeting for Scout leaders (Scouters) to provide information, training, and support, that isn't offered in any other way. It is extremely important that every unit sends a representative to Roundtable each month.

Why Should I Attend a Roundtable Meeting?

This is a very good question. A lot of the paperwork that is handed out at a Roundtable meeting is also either emailed to the leaders or available on some web page. If you think a Roundtable meeting is only about making announcements and handing out flyers, applications and forms, then it would make sense not to attend. **But, the roundtable is more than that** - it's sort of a support group for scouting's leaders. A roundtable has a give and take - you can ask questions or volunteer to give a presentation. You can discuss an issue or topic in an open forum, amongst leaders with varying experience and training. Yes, this also can be done using a web-based discussion forum, but roundtables are much more effective, in that it is live and in-person.

What is Discussed at a Roundtable Meeting?

First, there are current topics, issues or changes to the program that just came out. These are typically brought up by the Roundtable Commissioner or District Executive. This is information you need to know now, in order for you to do your scouting job right. As these topics are brought up, you can ask questions and your district representatives are right there to answer them, if they can. Other issues or topics can be brought up by anyone in attendance. If you know enough about a topic to put together a presentation, that would be great - talk to your Roundtable Commissioner about getting it on the agenda. Sometimes a presentation will spawn a discussion about its topic. We typically announce some topics in advance so that you may be able to prepare for the discussion.

Why is it Called a "Roundtable"?

It's called a roundtable because everyone has an equal say and no one person leads the conversation. The Commissioner only serves to moderate and keep the discussion productive. This

is a good opportunity to share your ideas and concerns about your unit and to hear what other leaders are doing about these same issues. We usually get into some very interesting discussions and most of the leaders attending walk away with some great ideas. Others get the confirmation that what they are doing is right, makes sense and is in-line with what other unit leaders are doing.

Who Should Attend the Roundtable?

Anyone with involvement in a Pack's or Troop's program. Scouting is constantly changing and evolving and every leader needs to keep on top of these changes. If you have little experience, then this is the place to learn about how the scout program really works. If you have a lot of experience, then you can share what you know with others. **Every unit should be sending at least one of its leaders to the monthly roundtable meeting, preferably the Cubmaster or Scoutmaster.** Send all of your new leaders to attend!

Who runs the Roundtable?

The meeting is run by a Roundtable Commissioner, who is a member of the District Commissioner's Staff. The purpose of this staff is to help unit leaders deliver a quality program to youth in their unit. Commissioners have a lot of program experience and training and are glad to help their units with any issues or problems they may have. Commissioners can provide advice and counseling for any unit leader that needs it. You may think everything is fine in your unit and you don't need help from your district. We understand this, but wouldn't it make sense to touch base with us once in a while?

I Can't Attend - Are There any Alternatives to the Roundtable Meeting?

Sorry, but there are no alternatives to this meeting - such as conference calling or email discussion groups. If the meeting does not fit into your schedule, then you should think about sending someone else in your unit to cover for you.

Adapted from mad-bsa.org/